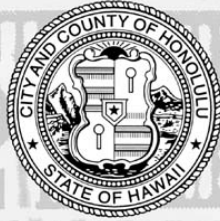


# NEWS RELEASE



**Dept. of Parks and Recreation**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 26, 2013**

## **CANDIDATES FOR 85<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LEI QUEEN ANNOUNCED**

Kapolei — The Department of Parks and Recreation introduces the candidates for the 85<sup>th</sup> *Annual Lei Queen Selection Event* which will be held this Saturday.

The 10 contestants entered in this year's Nā Mākuahine category (ages 31-54 years of age) will be vying for top honors:

- Donna Marie Kaleihōmaimekealoha Bareng
- Leiala Kaiulani Cook
- Elena Kawaiala'uluwehionaona Savaiinaea Farden
- Nani Friez
- Kealalei Ku'u I'ini Mezurashi-Collier
- Marie Keaokulakamalukukui Paresa
- Shelley Kēhaulani Pe'a
- Divina Luz Rocco
- Felice Kalehua Makanoe Junko Tolentino
- Lisa-Lynn Ku'uleilani Viela.



Front Row from left to right: Nani Friez, Divina Rocco, Donna Bareng, and Felice Tolentino.  
Back Row from left to right: Kealalei Mezurashi-Collier, Shelley Pe'a, Leiala Cook, Lisa Viela, Marie Paresa, and Elena Farden. (photo by Alex Ching)

Each contestant will be scored on the following skills:

- lei making (they have one hour to make a lei on site)
- poise and personality
- speaking in both English and Hawaiian,
- hula 'auana (modern hula)

The Lei Queen Selection Event will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kapolei Hale. The event is free and open to the public.

### BACKGROUND

The first Lei Day in 1927 was celebrated in downtown Honolulu with a few people wearing lei on May 1. Over time it grew as more and more people began to wear lei on May Day.

The first lei queen Nina Bowman was crowned by Mayor Charles Arnold in Honolulu in 1928.



Photo courtesy of Honolulu Star Advertiser

Please join the City and County of Honolulu and sponsors Times Supermarkets, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, and Cox Radio for this wonderful celebration of Hawaiian history and culture.

For more information about the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Lei Queen Selection Event please visit [www.honoluluparks.com](http://www.honoluluparks.com), or contact Lei Queen Selection Event Chair Roger Watanabe at 768-3042, or [rwatanabe@honolulu.gov](mailto:rwatanabe@honolulu.gov).